



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

Change is a fact of life, and life at OJJ is no different. People come and go, fiscal challenges mean that we have to work smarter, the seasons bring crazy weather. But something that never changes is the work that OJJ staff statewide does to meet the mission, and to go above and beyond.

Every issue of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* shows that our people never change – you just keep on giving to others, both in your professional and personal lives. I guess that people who choose a field of endeavor such as juvenile justice are naturally generous and altruistic. What a privilege to serve alongside you.

We recently welcomed two new key members of the executive team, and both will play vital roles as we prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Please welcome Undersecretary Connie Percell and Deputy Assistant Secretary Karen Stubbs to the OJJ family. See page 34-35 for information about both of them.

Speaking of the session, we are already gearing up for the annual marathon at the Capitol. Talk about change! This session is sure to bring about some significant changes in the way we do business.

But one thing I know we can count on to remain the same is the dedication and positive attitude of our staff, as reflected in this issue of your newsletter.

“Doc” Dr. Mary L. Livers

P.S. This issue of *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* has ended up as a quarterly rather than monthly edition.

The Daily Motivator

Get stronger

When the difficulties come, and pile so high on top of one another that you can't see the way forward, you have a choice. You can choose to give up, or you can choose to get stronger.

You can choose to bury your dreams under impenetrable layers of worry and fear. Or you can choose to make those dreams even more magnificent and compelling so that you cannot resist being pulled forward by them.

You can choose to feel sorry for yourself, or you can choose to feel the power of your true purpose. You can look for who is to blame, or you can look for ways to take full responsibility for the situation.

This is your life, and even the difficult stretches are very much worth living. In fact, it is during the challenging times that you build new capacity for greater richness.

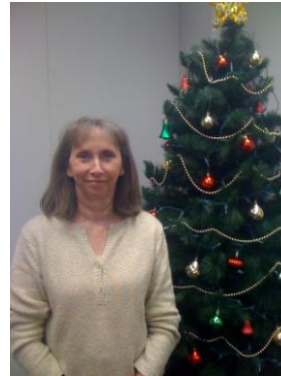
When there is no obvious reason to be positive, choose to be more positive than ever before. Instead of being overwhelmed by the problems, choose to be energized by the positive possibilities hidden within them.

Feel the genuine confidence that comes from knowing you always have a choice. And choose to live the positive value in whatever life may send.

-- Ralph Marston

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...



**PPS Linda Williams,
Monroe
Regional Office**

PPS Linda Williams has seen a lot of changes in juvenile justice - more than most staff members. She has 33 years of experience with our agency - and almost 38 years total in state government. "I've seen just about all the changes in our agency," Linda said. "I've seen people come and go and bring different philosophies to the job. But even today, I still see something new."

Back in 1973, when Linda began working in a clerical position with DHHR (now DHH), Department of Public Welfare, that one agency oversaw the food stamp program, support enforcement and juvenile probation.

Linda went to school while working in the probation office, getting experience that would lead to her career choice. With a plan of becoming a police officer, she finally achieved her dream of obtaining a degree in law enforcement from ULM. Linda did some graduate work in psychology, saying "people's behavior really interests me." Already working in the office that provided juvenile probation services, Linda realized that she would enjoy serving as an officer. When she received her degree, she was promoted to PPO and she never looked back. That early experience served as on-the-job training - Linda says there was no training back then. "They just handed over some cases," she remembers. "You got out on your own, sometimes with another officer, sometimes not, and just did the work. I

already knew a lot and I had a lot of crisis management training.”

With a caseload of 103, there was little time to develop relationships with families, Linda recalls. “We went to court, did PDIs...you could not devote the time to form relationships. We didn’t have the services back then that we have now.”

“It’s difficult to express how valuable an employee Linda is to our region,” said Monroe **Regional Manager Patty Newman**. “Linda has many years of experience and is a wealth of knowledge. She is extremely reliable and dependable and can be counted on to follow through until completion with any task assigned, and it will always be done correctly. She is an effective multi-tasker, and handles numerous responsibilities in our office. Linda is a “hands on” supervisor. The staff in her unit are well trained, and their cases reflect the attention to detail that Linda exemplifies. She is an ideal employee, and provides tremendous support to the Monroe office.”

A major shift came about when the probation and parole office was placed under the Department of Public Safety and Corrections in the mid-1980s, Linda said. The social work aspect was emphasized while under DHH; after the switch it became more correctional. “The public perception at that time was that kids needed more punishment than rehabilitation. We went to a correctional mode and used terminology in line with adult probation. Now we are separated from adult corrections and we are back to the rehabilitation mode,” Linda continued.

After the move to DPSC, juvenile PPOs wanted to have the same pay grades as adult PPOs and the issues of carrying firearms and learning defensive tactics were raised, Linda said. To do that, PPOs had to attend POST academies. “The older employees took the training in pieces/parts,” Linda said. “They did not attend the POST academy. They took POST-like classes in a classroom. All these issues came into play,” Linda said. “That

started the shift toward becoming certified, and in 1998, officers began to carry weapons.”

“My approach to our work is that we are all public servants,” Linda said. “To know how people want to be treated, I try to put myself in the other person’s place and try to help them. I instill in the people I supervise that we must always treat people like you would want to be treated if you needed help. Most of our clients do not know the juvenile justice system – we are here to help them. We have to be courteous and respectful, because our actions reflect on me, our agency and on all state employees. I always get that across to my staff. I expect a lot from them, because I expect a lot from myself. I want them to be the best that they can.”

“We are only one part of the system,” Linda continued. “When people get a negative view of one part, that colors how they see the whole thing.”

“I want our clients to be productive,” Linda said. “I am all about education for our kids. I tell them that once they have an education it cannot be taken away from them. Education, or the lack of it, will affect the rest of their lives. We want our kids to be in school. They deserve the opportunity to get an education. Often the public does not see what we deal with daily.”

“When we see what some of our kids go through sometimes, we think that growing up, we did not have it so bad after all,” Linda said. “If you have not experienced it you have no idea of what our kids have to do to survive. We need to show them another way to live, that they do not have to continue living like they have been.”

“I recognize that we can’t do everything for our clients but we need to educate them and help them,” she continued. “But we still have to hold people responsible for their own behavior - they are still accountable for their own actions.”

"This is really interesting work," Linda said. "Despite the obstacles, and frustrations, this is the most interesting thing I could do. I enjoy the challenge, and even after this long, I always learn something new. I would like to retire, but I also want something to do."

Linda was a member of the OJJ statewide Service Coordination committee that helped to write the comprehensive service coordination handbook. She recalled going to Pennsylvania to observe programs there, saying that serving on the committee was a very interesting year or so of work. "Service Coordination was a massive undertaking," Linda said. "It was the biggest thing we have undergone since the firearms issue."

She also serves on the statewide committee for supervisor training, under the direction of Staff Development Coordinator Fran Martin. "We provide supervisor training for four regions, in Baton Rouge and Monroe and at Jetson and Bridge City."

Linda is actually retired from one of her jobs – she served in the U.S. Army Reserve for 24 years, retiring as a Master Sergeant in 1998. Linda related that when she first went to work, her regional manager was a battalion commander, and mentioned that females were needed in the reserves. In 1974 the Women's Army Corps (WAC) was looking for typists and nurses, and offered an accelerated training program. The three year hitch turned into a career. "It was wonderful and I would not change that experience for anything," Linda said. "It was great experience. I met a lot of people and made lifelong friends."

Linda has always liked to travel, and her annual reserve training took her to many parts of the country but never outside the U.S. "I learned a totally different way of life," she added. "I've always been responsible, but the Army teaches teamwork, self-discipline and personal responsibility. It was a lot of work, but it also helped in my regular position. I can see things and recognize that this is our mission, and know what we have got to do to get things done. We learned that all of us are

a part of the mission, and every part is important to the whole picture. Without teamwork, you can't get the job done."

A native of Point, LA in Union Parish, Linda has lived in Ouachita Parish since 1973. Her great niece and great nephews, who live in Baton Rouge, are like grandchildren, she said. Linda said she is an introvert and she enjoys reading, visiting with friends and tending her flower gardens. "It doesn't take a lot to satisfy me," Linda said.

An avid animal lover, Linda served on the board of the local Humane Society and supports other animal welfare agencies as well. She plans to volunteer with some of these agencies when she gets around to retiring.

A major goal is to visit the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah. "It's the most wonderful animal sanctuary," Linda said. "I sponsor a couple of animals there and I would like to volunteer there as well. They take rescues and adoptions from all over the country."

Linda has been able to travel for fun, not just for her Army Reserve training. One memorable journey took her to Australia in 1999. "That was a great trip, and I would like to go back," Linda noted. "It was the most exciting thing I've ever done." The 14-hour flight took her to a land much different from the United States. A visit to a rescue sanctuary brought Linda face-to-face with kangaroos, koalas, wombats and humongous fruit bats. She toured wineries, and ate crocodile (good to eat) and emu (not so good). Linda described Sydney as a beautiful city with a harbor, and said her main challenge was driving on the "wrong" side of the road.

An inspiration to those she works with, Linda Williams exemplifies what it means to meet the mission.

Elvis, (what else? He's a hound dog!) JCY teacher Denise Clause's pooch, catches a few zzzs waiting for Santa.



Transitions**Comings and Goings.....****New Faces****Bridge City Center for Youth**

Lauri Bedell – JJS 2

Ava Grover – JJS 1

Trenda Henry – JJS 1

Zachary Lebeau – Operating Engineer 2

Central Office

Connie Percell – Undersecretary

Karen Stubbs – Deputy Asst. Secretary

Hammond

Warren Hudgins – PPO 1

New Orleans

Nakia Harris – PPO 1

Opelousas

Danielle Bias – Admin. Coordinator 3

Swanson Center for Youth

Donnie Adams – JJS 1

Milton Allen – JJS 1

Dawn Binns – JJS 1

Tracy Hanspard – JJS 1

Winnie Harris – Food Production Worker

Brandon Landers – JJS 1

Marilyn White – Food Production Worker

Ardrianne Zinnerman – JJS 2

Thibodaux

Peter Pobocik – PPO 1

Promotions**Bridge City Center for Youth**

Ivory Watts – JJS 4

Deidre Willis – JJS 4

Central Office

Wade Campbell – IT Tech Support Spec 3

Retirements

Rodney Alex, Swanson – 28 years

Peter Bonhomme, Lafayette – 23 years

Demita Claiborne, Swanson – 23 years

Leon Franklin, Jetson – 30 years

Carmen Leiva, Central Office – 21 years

CQIS POLICY UPDATES

A.1.7 Risk Management 11/5/10

A.2.4 Employee Awards 11/5/10

A.2.54 Attainment of One Year Certificate in Juvenile Justice 11/5/10

A.5.8 Blackberry Usage 11/10/10

D.9.1 Placement of Youth in Residential Facilities 11/19/10

D.9.12 Participation in the Title IV-E Program 11/17/10

D.10.4 Community Supervision Classification System 11/15/10

D.10.9 Electronic Monitoring Program 11/19/10

A.2.8 Sexual Harassment 12/17/10

A.2.13 Americans with Disabilities Act (Employees, Applicants, Candidates, Visitors) 12/21/10

A.2.51 Telecommuting and Alternative Work Site Policy 12/17/10

D.10.22 Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) 12/17/10

A.1.3 Organizational Structure 1/20/11

A.1.9 Public Records Management 1/24/11

A.2.23 Position Descriptions 1/26/11

A.2.30 Mail Precautions 1/26/11

A.2.48 Driver Safety Program 1/24/11

A.3.7 Procurement of Supplies and Equipment 1/20/11

A.3.12 Issuance of Clothing Inventory 1/21/11

A.5.9 Social Networking 1/20/11

A.6.3 Facility Meals 1/25/11

C.1.9 EPA Worker Protection Standard 1/10/11

C.4.6 Securing Physical Evidence 1/14/11

C.4.7 Escorted Absence 1/10/11

Rescinded:

A.6.4 Privately Owned Livestock 1/28/11

Certificate of Technical Studies in Juvenile Justice Available for OJJ Staff

First class of six receives certificates

By Fran Martin, Staff Development Director

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System has developed the Certificate of Technical Studies in Juvenile Justice, in partnership with OJJ.

Courses are designed to benefit people who are employed in the area of juvenile justice and related fields working with high-risk adolescents or those interested in beginning a career in the area of juvenile justice.

A very special ceremony was held on December 16. Northshore Technical College, Florida Parishes Campus, conducted a presentation of certificates ceremony for the first group of OJJ staff that completed the Certificate of Technical Studies in Juvenile Justice.

Dr. Mary Livers welcomed staff and family members and congratulated the staff members receiving certificates. **Fouad Harb**, JCY LAMOD Coordinator and instructor of several classes in the program, shared program highlights. **JCY Director Daron Brown** also congratulated the staff on their accomplishment. Northshore Technical College **Campus Dean Sharon G. Hornsby** presented the certificates. She was assisted by **Burke Jones**, Assistant Dean/Student Affairs Officer and **Karolyn Pinsel Harrell**, Criminal Justice Program Coordinator.

Those receiving certificates of completion from Jetson Center for Youth included **Martha Barnes**, **Erica Duhe** and **Kelly Johnson**.

Three staff from Central Office also received certificates of completion, including **Gwen Brinkley** (her daughter Tiffany Brinkley-

Barrow accepted the certificate on behalf of her mother), **Louis Hyatt**, and **Chad Wells**.

Following the ceremony, the group enjoyed refreshments prepared by **Chef Ron Sonnier** and his Culinary Arts students from BCCY.



Pictured are, from, left: Burke Jones, Northshore Technical College; Fran Martin, OJJ Staff Development Director; Fouad Harb, Instructor at Jetson and Northshore Technical College; Jetson Director Daron Brown; Erica Duhe, Jetson; Martha Barnes, Jetson; Kelly Johnson, Jetson; Dr. Mary Livers, OJJ Deputy Secretary; Tiffany Brinkley-Barrow, daughter of Gwen Brinkley, Central Office; Col. Louis Hyatt, Chief of Investigative Services; Karolyn Pinsel-Harrell, Northshore Technical College; Lt. Col. Chad Wells, OJJ Investigative Services, and Sharon Hornsby, Northshore Technical College.

OJJ is proud of this first group of staff to complete the program. They all have plans to pursue further educational goals. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Northshore Technical College, Florida Parishes Campus, in the future.

"I am happy to say that all members of this first group plan to continue their education and pursue their degrees," said Dr. Livers. "That is exactly what we hoped would happen. I encourage all of you who are thinking about furthering your education, just take it one step at a time."

OJJ policy A 2.54, Attainment of One Year Certificate in Juvenile Justice, addresses the specific guidelines regarding which current

OJJ staff may qualify for a pay increase upon successful completion of the certificate program.

At this time, the Certificate of Technical Studies: Juvenile Justice consists of 8 courses. The course formats include classroom style and hybrid classes (a combination of classroom and online class meetings). Plans are being made to have a number of the courses offered online in the near future.

The courses for the Certificate of Technical Studies in Juvenile Justice include:

Introduction to Juvenile Justice 101 Introduction to the historical and contemporary aspects of juvenile corrections in Louisiana.

Basic Fundamentals of Youth, Drugs and Juvenile Programs 100 Introduction of current trends, programs and approaches to youthful addiction, treatment options, assessment processes, and related behavioral issues for youthful offenders specifically housed in secure-care settings and in supervision.

Basic Fundamentals of Crisis Intervention 100 Provides an overview of the techniques and approaches to crisis intervention for entry-level juvenile justice professionals.

Basic Fundamentals of Working with Mentally Ill Youth 100 Supervision and care of youthful offenders in confinement. Builds awareness of the dynamics, basic behaviors, and interpersonal interactions often found among youthful offenders exhibiting serious mental disorders.

Basic Fundamentals of Maladaptive Behavior 100 Strategies for working with youth presenting maladaptive behavior. Basic introduction for understanding the nature of adolescent social behavior, diagnosis, and classification of mental disorders.

Introduction to Ethics and Boundaries in Working with Youth and High-Risk Behaviors 100 Ethical issues surrounding the work of individuals with youth exhibiting high risk behaviors. Provides guidance, relative human dignity and appropriate boundaries which must be established and supported in the day-to-day work with troubled youth.

Basic Fundamentals of Technical Reporting 100 Information and practice on writing a variety of reports required in juvenile justice programs

Cooperative Work Experience 100 Places students in an unpaid internship work experience within OJJ or a related setting.

Anyone interested in more information about the Certificate of Technical Studies in Juvenile Justice may contact their director or Regional Manager or Fran Martin at fran.martin@la.gov.

Also, for information or to register for classes, contact the following:

Carlos Morris, Louisiana Delta Community College, Monroe; cmorris@ladelta.edu, 318-362-5031

Karolyn Pinsel, Northshore Technical College, Florida Parishes Campus kpinsel@northshorecollege.edu, 225-222-4251, ext. 207



Beware the hunter!

OJJ's Recent POST Graduates Take Honors

Eleven Probation and Parole Officers from around the state recently graduated from the POST Academy.

A number of OJJ staff members attended the ceremony at the Old State Capitol to support our newest PPOs.

OJJ swept the awards, with **Scott Peyton** of Lafayette winning the highest academic award. **Samuel Moore** of Lafayette cinched the physical fitness award, and **Anthony Hall** of Shreveport was the best marksman. Congratulations to all 11 new OJJ POST graduates.



POST graduates, first row: Brian Charles, Alexandria OJJ (front left); Daniel Mingea, Hammond OJJ (front right). Second row: Anthony Hall, Shreveport OJJ, (left); Andrew Bonner, Baton Rouge OJJ; Joshua McManus, New Orleans OJJ (far right). Third row: Sam Moore, Lafayette OJJ (left); Scott Peyton, Lafayette OJJ (right). Back row: Carl Miller, New Orleans OJJ (left); Cory Laborde, Alexandria OJJ; Jessica Flores, Shreveport OJJ; Douglas Black, New Orleans OJJ (right).

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO Tressa Gros was chosen November **Employee of the Month**. She has been a member of the OJJ family since March 2009. Tressa came to Thibodaux OJJ as an intern from Nicholls State University in August 2008. The OJJ mission to help the youth and their families in our community impressed her so much that she immediately wanted to be a part of OJJ. She is a true team player and enjoys making a difference in our community. Tressa is an extraordinary probation officer and a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.

As a note, **PPO Tressa Gros** was a First Responder/witness to a serious vehicular accident on her commute to work one morning. Thanks to her quick response and training, EMS, the Fire Department, and state and parish police officers arrived very quickly on the scene. She remained with the injured person until they arrived. Tressa also went to the hospital after her workday to check on the injured person. The injured lady was in stable condition and will make a full recovery.

PPO Jaime Hebert was selected December **Employee of the Month**. She has been a member of the OJJ family since January 2009. Jaime came to Thibodaux OJJ from Department of Children and Family Services where she began her state career in July 2007. She is a true team player and enjoys making a difference in our community. Jaime is an extraordinary probation officer and a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.

PPO James "Eddie" Fannin was selected **Employee of the Month** for January. He has been a member of the OJJ family since 1998. Eddie moved to Thibodaux from Albany, Georgia where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Criminology from Valdosta University. His wife is an elementary school teacher from Thibodaux. They have one son. One thing that is unique about Eddie is that

he has worked in all parishes covered by the Thibodaux Region. Eddie is an extraordinary probation officer and a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.

Welcome

We also want to welcome aboard a new member of Thibodaux OJJ team, **PPO1 Peter Pobocik**.

Thanks and Kudos

A huge kudos goes to all who contributed to the TOJJ 2nd annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive. **SSC Reshonn Saul** and **PPO Tressa Gros** delivered baskets to needy families.

Thibodaux OJJ enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all of the delicious trimmings. It was joyful to share a meal together with one another to give thanks for all of our blessings.

Double Baby Shower Held

Thibodaux OJJ celebrated the joyous occasions of two Probation and Parole Officers who are expecting babies soon. Congratulations to **PPO Josef Nguyen** and his wife who are expecting their first born child. **PPO Jaime Hebert** is also expecting her first born. A double baby shower was given to welcome their new bundles of joy.



Jaime and Josef enjoy their respective cakes.

Christmas Events

TOJJ employees opened their hearts to two people in our community who were struggling during the Christmas season, making their holiday a little nicer.

The Thibodaux Office enjoyed a Christmas meal with delicious finger foods and deserts. It was joyful to share a meal together and some fun times with one another.



AMIkids Donaldsonville singing Christmas carols.

Youth and staff from AMIkids-Donaldsonville stopped by TOJJ to sing us some Christmas carols. We enjoyed their thoughtfulness when they stopped by to wish everyone a merry Christmas. **PPO Heidi McElroy** was presented with a token of appreciation from AMI Kids Donaldsonville.

Thibodaux OJJ wishes everyone and their families a happy new year. Despite all of the challenges that everyone faced last year, we persevered with blessings. We look forward to 2011 and will conquer new challenges with assertiveness and grace.



Restorative Justice

AMikids Donaldsonville has carried out a restorative justice project for every month.

“Service from the Heart for Seniors Week” was full of exciting and enriching experiences for youth, staff, communities and the organization.

Tallulah Regional Office

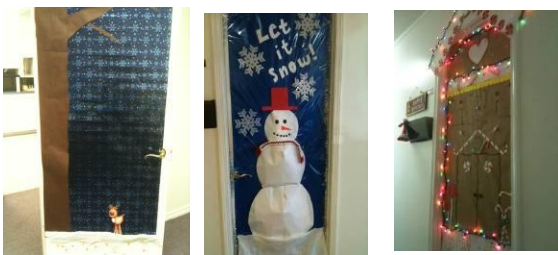
Condolences

PPS Johnnie Bowman recently lost her mother, Ms. Claudine Porter. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Rita Stone with Mothers Against Drunk Driving held a workshop in December at the Madison Parish Library. Our officers attended and were given information on evidence-based tools for parents to use with their high school age children.

PPO Robert Johnson attended the American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED and Bloodborne Pathogens Instructor's training in Monroe, at the Red Cross NE LA Chapter.

Tallulah OJJ enjoyed great food and fun at our Christmas Party. Everyone decorated their doors and prizes were given to the winners. **PPO Terri Berry's** “Gingerbread House” won first place. **AC Martha Hattaway's** “Winter Wonderland” won second, and **PPO Janet Pierce's** “Deer Scene” won third.



Above left, Janet's Deer Scene; center, Martha's Winter Wonderland and right, Terri's winning door design, Gingerbread House.

Swanson Center for Youth

Celebration of Change Event Held

Swanson held its Celebration of Change in December. **Director Carolyn Atkins** and her event committee spared no effort to decorate the gym in beautiful Christmas colors of red, silver and black. The dining hall staff outdid themselves with the luncheon they prepared, which was served by youth in Apple dorm. The outstanding menu featured baked chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, peach cobbler – served warm and delicious – hot rolls and tea. Food Service Director **Alethea Bornes** was on hand to assist.

Keynote speaker was **Assistant District Attorney Johnny Sanders**.

Dr. Mary Livers noted that OJJ presented a newly-created award at the first celebration. “We wanted to have a way to recognize people who have worked so hard and championed the cause of juvenile justice reform,” Dr. Livers said. “We created the Champion of Louisiana Juvenile Justice Award, and I can think of no one more deserving of this first annual award than Chief Justice Catherine “Kitty” Kimball.”

The Swanson celebration was very well attended, with regional managers and PPOs from several offices present: **RM Kristi Martin** from Shreveport and her staff, **RM Ruth Stephens** and her staff from Tallulah, **RM Randy Hill** from Natchitoches and naturally, **RM Patty Newman** and staff from Monroe. **DAS Carolyn Lewis** attended as well.

Swanson has a rich history and guests enjoyed a history lesson complete with a lot of photos depicting the history of the facility, by **Jan James**. Jan traced the history from the beginning of the facility to current times. She did a lot of research, and it was very interesting and enjoyable.



The SCY choir performs at the Celebration of Change.

There were 36 retirees and former employees in attendance. Retirees were: **Hercules Anthony, Robert Bennett, Moseeta Bishop, Mary Lou Blakeman, John Daniel, Barbara Dison, Bobby Dunavant, Jo Dunavant, Demita Claiborne, Jimmy Gaylor, Patsy Hendrix, James Howard, Anna Kelly, Reece London, Fred McHenry, Keith Moore, Beverly Morris, Don Price, Gladys Reyes, Frank Smith, Wilma Strickland, Johnathan Williams and Ida Yearby.**



The gym was packed with guests for the Celebration of Change.

Thank you to the committee members who worked so very hard to make this a successful event: **Director Carolyn Atkins, Jennifer Bible, Lorenzo Brown, Mary Brown, Deborah Coleman, Sharon Hall, Shakita Hayes, Jan James, Rev. Ricky James, Carolyn Jones, Sharri Jones, Pat Spain, Dusty Teer, Mike Vehonsky, Kristi Walker and Gail Wilson.**

Youth Attend Christmas Play

Director Carolyn Atkins, several staff and two youth from each dorm attended "Scrooge," a Christmas play put on at the Family Life Center in West Monroe. This was the second year the youth were allowed to attend.

MLK Day Celebrated

Verbon Muhammad, Monroe City School Board member, was the guest speaker at the Southside Alternative High School MLK Birthday Celebration in January. The school also sponsored essay and poster contests, giving prizes to the first, second, and third place winners in each.

Also in honor of Dr. King, a rap session was held after church in the Good Shepherd Chapel, to discuss Dr. King's service to the community and how he helped all people and brought about unity and tranquility. There were 38 youth in attendance.

Town Hall Meeting Held



Dr. Mary Livers and DAS Sean Hamilton held a meeting, above, with supervisors and another with staff. Both meetings were very productive and beneficial.

LaMOD Class Explores How to Help Our Youth

During a LAMOD class “Problems vs. Systems,” **Delbert Blunt, Training/Development Specialist**, showed an illustration of a tree that represents the roots and wings of some of the problems that the youth bring into our facility, some that are added while here. The illustration also represents how we as a team help our youth to overcome their problems. The tree was designed by **Linda Trotter of Jetson Center for Youth**.



SCY's LaMod Class

Woodlawn Elementary School Sends Gifts to SCY Youth

Principal William Lee reports that the students, faculty and staff of Woodlawn Elementary School in West Monroe presented Swanson youth with Christmas gifts of personal items. Principal Lee's thank-you letter to Mrs. Terri Hollingsworth, Woodlawn principal, stated “Your students, parents, faculty and administrative staff have truly shown our kids that the true meaning of Christmas is in giving, and we give thanks for their kindness and generosity...It is certainly a big boost to the morale and spirit of our students to know that there are people in this state that can and will show compassion.”

The Pumpkin Patch

Reverend Ricky James and several staff members took four youth to First United Methodist Church to help church members unload pumpkins for their annual Pumpkin Patch. The youth, along with other community volunteers, unloaded 7,438 pumpkins. The Church donated 20 pumpkins for our Fall Festival.



Above, Swanson youth unloading thousands of pumpkins. Below, JJS Michael Shaw unloading pumpkins.



Youth Visit Nursing Home to Decorate for Christmas



Reverend Ricky James and four youth went to Riverside Nursing Home to help the residents decorate for Christmas. The youth hung wreaths on the doors and put up lights around the nursing home. The Christmas wreaths were made by the youth in the Holly Units.

Congratulations

Social Worker 7 Kathy Powell's son, Sean Powell, graduated from Southern University in Baton Rouge in December. Sean received a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication.

Shreveport Regional Office

Employees of the Month

Our Employee of the Month for December was... **PPO1 Anthony Hall!** Congratulations, Anthony. You are a great addition to our team! Shreveport OJJ's Employee of the Month for October and November were **AC3 Karen Smith** and **PPO Alan Glover** respectively. Both were recognized for being great assets to office.

Annual Employee Awards

At our December staff meeting **RM Kristi Martin** handed out her annual Employee Awards. The recipients were...

Rookie of the Year - PPO2 Alan Glover
Probation Officer of the Year - PPO2 Fabrecia Roberson
Positive Attitude Award - PPO3 Dwain Wilemon and AC3 AJ Glover
Probation Supervisor of the Year (voted on by POs) - PPS Kim Scott-Carlisle
Professional Growth and Development Award - PPS Guy May
Sharp Shooter Awards - PPO1 Anthony Hall, PPS Steve Martino, PPO 3 Charles Herrmann
Outstanding Commitment Awards - PPO3 Natalie Pope and AC4 Shatina Salter

Congratulations

PPO Anthony Hall and **PPO Jessica Flores** graduated from the Probation and Parole POST Academy in November. **PPO Hall** was honored as Class President and also earned Top Firearms honors.



The cake walk.



Above left: Youth and staff enjoy playing bingo. Right: First place pumpkin won by Holly A dorm.



LSUHSC's Kimberly Peters designs T-shirts for Cancer Fundraiser

Peters' T-shirts give voice, style to cause



Cancer survivor **Kimberly Peters** creates a new T-shirt design every year, using the profits to help patients undergoing cancer treatments pay bills, with a portion going to the American Cancer society. Her recent design says “Who Dat Gonna Beat that Cancer?” with a large fleur de lis.

Curfew Checks Conducted

Curfew checks were done during the fall, led by **PPS Steven Martino** and conducted by **PPO2 Jarred Cram, PPO2 Fabrecia Roberson, PPO3 Terri Harber** and **PPO1 Anthony Hall**. Curfew checks were also led by **PPS Steve Martino** and **PPS Guy May** and conducted by **PPO2 Jarred Cram, PPO2 Fabrecia Roberson, PPO3 Terri Harber, PPO1 Anthony Hall, PPO2 Todd Carlisle, PPO3 Charles Herrmann, PPO2 Brandy Stratton** and **PPO2 Alan Glover**. Additional curfew checks were conducted under the supervision of **PPS Steve Martino** and **PPS Guy May**. Those who participated were **PPO Terri Harber, PPO Jarred Cram, PPO Todd Carlisle, PPO Jennifer Hill-Dingler, PPO Brandy Stratton, PPO Fabrecia Roberson** and **PPO Dwain Wilemon**.

RM Kristi Martin, PPO2 Fabrecia Roberson and **PPO1 Holly Black** traveled to SCY to participate in the quarterly staffings in December.

PPS Rick Ladner, PPO2 Brandy Stratton and **AC AJ Glover** attended the AMI Kids-Red River Winter Graduation in December. Two of our youth, **S. Tucker** and **L. Williams**, earned their GEDs. Way to go!

RM Kristi Martin, PPS Guy May, PPS Rick Ladner, PPS Kim Scott-Carlisle and **PPO3 Natalie Pope** attended the OJJ Celebration of Change event at SCY in December.

PPO3 Dwain Wilemon attended the VOA Tracker Christmas Party in December. Gifts were given and lunch was provided for all attendees, including the youth who participate in the program.

PPS Rick Ladner and **PPO1 Holly Black** attended the AMI Kids-Red River Christmas Program. "A Christmas Carol" with the storyline about juvenile delinquency was performed. The AMI students who were cast

members did an outstanding job. A traditional Christmas lunch was provided afterwards.

December was Read a Book Month! Shreveport OJJ staff participated by collecting age-appropriate books for the youth. The generously donated books were taken to Johnny Gray Jones Youth Shelter.

Shreveport OJJ staff sponsored several youth at the Caddo Juvenile Detention Center in the "Make a Wish Come True" Christmas program.

RM Kristi Martin took a well-deserved vacation to the Bahamas over the holidays. She came back refreshed and ready for the new year!

Please keep the following officers in your thoughts and prayers....

PS Jan Crain and **PPO3 Terri Harber** - for a speedy recovery for their loved ones.

Restorative Justice

Shreveport OJJ recognized Character Counts Month last fall. An essay contest was held at Johnny Gray Jones Youth Shelter. Youth wrote about the six pillars in Character Counts. The winning essay was selected by **RM Kristi Martin** and **PPS Jan Crain**.

Shreveport OJJ recognized National Runaway Prevention Month by participating in Project Green Light.

Community programs were asked to use green light bulbs in their porch lights to raise awareness and show support for runaway youth.

Shreveport OJJ distributed green light bulbs to staff, Caddo Parish juvenile judges and Juvenile Court staff, Rutherford House and Johnny Gray Jones Youth Shelter.



Caddo Court Probation Officer Donna Woods, PPO Latonya Marshall, Judge Shonda Stone, AC3 Atejia Glover and Caddo Court Probation Officer Latisha Wadley display green light bulbs presented to Caddo Parish Juvenile Court staff.



PPO Natalie Pope presenting green light bulbs to Michael Watts at Johnny Gray Jones Youth Shelter.

PPS Rick Ladner and several Probation and Parole Officers participated in reclassification staffings for youth at SCY during the fall.



PPO Alan Glover volunteered his time on Veteran's Day to participate in the Veteran's Day

Program at Caddo Juvenile Detention Center. PPO Glover is a retired Army officer and he served as part of a panel of community leaders that presented information to youth in detention on Veteran's Day.

RM Kristi Martin, PPS Kim Scott-Carlisle, PPO Alan Glover, PPO Todd Carlisle, PPO Kristen McKee, PPO Lanita Lars, PPO Latonya Marshall and AC3 Atejia Glover attended the Goodwill grand opening of their Pierremont Campus.



PPS Steve Martino, PPS Kim Scott-Carlisle and PPS Guy May stand proudly as pumpkin carving contest winners!

A team-building pumpkin carving contest was held in honor of Halloween at the Shreveport Office. **PPS Guy May's** unit took 1st place; **PPS Steve Martino's** unit was awarded 2nd place and **PPS Kim Carlisle's** unit placed 3rd. A good time was had by all!!!

Shreveport OJJ staff completed CPR, First Aid and Chemical Weapons annual training conducted by **Raymond Lloyd** of Ware Youth Center.

PPO Natalie Pope and **PPO Todd Carlisle** conducted Motivational Interviewing training for all Shreveport OJJ staff last fall.

RM Kristi Martin presented information on the Coordinated System of Care (CSoc) to the Caddo and Bossier Youth and Children Planning Boards at a joint meeting last fall.



New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Welcome Aboard!

We welcome our new **PPO 1s, Nakia Harris and Warren Hudgins.**

Congratulations to Officers of the Month



PPO Paula Kilbourne, who started state service in 1987, transferring to OJJ in 1995, was chosen as December PPO of the month. Her supervisor, **Ralph Jones**,

commends her for always volunteering to render assistance to others, often outside of core hours. Mr. Jones also recognized the relationship that PO Kilbourne has fostered with court officials. Mr. Jones said, "She has great rapport with the court staff at St. Bernard and Plaquemines Courts, which helps in troubleshooting crisis matters." Thanks PO Kilbourne for your dedicated and unselfish service to others!



PPO3 Harold August was selected November PPO of the Month. His selection stemmed from his willingness to go above and beyond in rendering assistance during challenging, taxing

times. His supervisor, **Daphne Johnson**, said she encountered a staff shortage due to unforeseeable circumstances, but thanks to Mr. August's receptiveness and efforts, her unit was able to stay afloat. Ms. Johnson said, "Mr. August managed to see the kids on his caseload, attend every single court hearing (including the hearings of staff members who were out) and he did all of this with ZERO complaints. He came to the office every morning with a glowing smile and showed no signs of stress." Special thanks to Harold for this exemplary display of a team-partnership.

Congratulations to Our PPOs

PPOs Douglas Black, Carl Miller and Joshua McManus all successfully completed the POST Academy last fall. During the graduation exercise acknowledging this accomplishment, PO Miller was recognized for having placed second in the Physical Training portion of the program.

Paulette Carter Honored

By Roxann Tuircuit

Our very own **Paulette Carter**, Program Specialist, a member of Greater St. Stephen's Full Gospel Church, was honored by the church as Woman of the Year Interpreter for their Deaf Ministry, ***Sign and Wonders Ministries***. The team interprets for the deaf and hearing-impaired during worship services. Paulette was selected for this honor by members of the ministry in which she serves. Paulette also had the privilege of being one of the writers for a sitcom entitled *Driven*, produced by Greater Motion Pictures. It made its debut in November.

Breast Cancer Awareness

Awareness of breast cancer is highlighted during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. **Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit** not only made sure that our awareness was heightened in this area, but she also spearheaded a effort to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation for the Cure of breast cancer.

Several festive events were planned and orchestrated in support of the foundation. There was coffee and donuts day, along with jeans and jersey day, when individuals paid a dollar to sport their favorite team's attire. The culminating event was the tastiest treat of all, a lavish spread of baked goodies for sale. We had cakes of every flavor, cookies, pralines, pecan candy, muffins, popcorn balls, chocolate pretzels and much more. All of the proceeds collected from these events went to the Komen Foundation. A goal of \$300.00

was set. However, I'm ecstatic to report that Region One exceeded our goal by raising a whopping total of \$344.00 dollars.



A special thanks to Roxann and everyone in Region One for contributing to such a noble cause!



YEP Activities for Kids and Parents

The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) held its Annual Parent and Youth Orientation bash for the fall. There was lots of fun, food and fellowship.



The orientation provided YEP with an opportunity to discuss its programs in detail with parents. Some parents said they now have a better sense of the mentoring involvement with YEP's youth advocates and are excited and appreciative for their child's involvement with YEP.

In the spirit of giving, YEP treated the young children in their program to a hot Thanksgiving feast. The menu consisted of ham, macaroni and cheese, yams, green beans and dressing. Present at this function were **Glenis Scott**, Project Director and **Latasha Smith**, Operation Reach Worker. Ms. Smith said, "This was a great opportunity to get to know the kids a little better. It is always great to see that young people are impacted by the work we do here at YEP." The children had a phenomenal time dining together.



If a picture is worth a thousand words, this one is simply priceless. YEP children enjoy a holiday meal together.

YEP, with contributions from TJ Maxx and Raintree Children and Family Services, hosted a holiday party for children enrolled in various YEP programs, and their families. There was an abundance of food, music, games, and prizes. Gifts donated by Raintree and TJ Maxx were given to kids to ensure that every YEP client experienced a happy holiday. OJJ representatives attended the event, as well as sponsors, partners and supporters. A festive time was experienced by all.

There is No Party like an OJJ Party!

At Region One's Christmas fellowship we were stuffed with a delicious, hearty meal, and the winners of the Christmas Door Contest were unveiled.

Prior to the party, **Glenis Scott**, **August Collins** and **Melissa Sawyer** of the Youth Empowerment Project served as impartial judges for the contest. Quiet as some folks

tried to keep things, several members of staff shamelessly attempted to bribe the judges. But the judges would have none of it, so they checked their scores and checked them twice. Then they left in a dash, leaving the results and gifts for **Santa Clement** to announce. And Santa Clement did just that. The results were:

The 4th place winner was **Bridgette Dillon's** chilling display of "Snow De Leis." The snowflakes trickled down to the bottom forming a little snow bunny with hexagonal crystals that sparkled in the vision of Bridgette herself.

The 3rd place winner was **Karen Ragan's** depiction of Santa, which actually bore a striking resemblance to **RM Clement**. As a matter of fact, I bet my presents under the tree that the face **was** that of RM Clement.

The 2nd place winner was an angelic, heartwarming compilation put together by **Shawn Herbert**. It featured several news articles reflecting success stories about our youth.

And the exceptional first place winner was "A Diva's Nite before Christmas." It was any girl's dream complete with a show-stopping arrival in a fancy car, the red carpet stroll in a breathtaking ensemble, embellished with only the most lavish jewelry, and a limitless American Express Card. This diva, **Jalessa Williams**, in pursuit by the paparazzi, just pranced, profiled and posed.

A special thanks to everyone for utilizing their creative, expressive gifts in the spreading of festive holiday cheer to all!



The Greatest Gift of All



PPO Austin Johnson's daughter, Jaimyn Johnson, received a priceless gift in December - her mother, **Captain Anissa Johnson** of the 199th Brigade Support Battalion, 256 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, returned from a one-year stint in Iraq.

The third grader at Belle Chasse Academy was at school when her parents arrived. Her tearful mother rushed to her side. Jaimyn responded with a heartwarming smile. Jaimyn's parents are divorced but they share a close relationship. Austin attributes the success of their combined parenting to being committed parents, along with a committed stepmother who treats Jaimyn as her own. Austin expressed appreciation to OJJ for understanding the challenges that he experienced, going from having his daughter on weekends only, to having total custody. He praised OJJ and his then-**RM Angela Koenig**, who was very supportive. He is forever grateful for their understanding and concern.

Austin is proud of his daughter for her adjustment to her new environment. "Her grades never fell and she remained an honor student. I'm so proud of her for that," he said.

We are ecstatic that the stars that once hung in Jaimyn's school lobby were taken down and given to Jaimyn, to signifying her mother's safe return from deployment in Iraq.

Boss's Day Celebrated

It's nice to be remembered, and the crew in Region One did just that for Boss's Day. The staff put on the ritz by displaying their exquisite culinary skills, savvy serving techniques and poised and courteous waiting style.

The scrumptious meal consisted of well seasoned baked fish, tasty turkey legs, macaroni and cheese, string beans, mouth watering brownies and a salad made with love.



Thanks to staff for a show of such remarkable kindness!!

Man on the Move: Stanley Schofield on the Speaking Circuit

Get out your roller skates and keep up with **PO Stanley Schofield**, if you can....Stanley had four speaking engagements in one month. He was the guest speaker at a youth rally at the Historic St. James Baptist Church in Madisonville, then at Michal's on St. Charles Avenue, at a Teen Summit sponsored by Q-93 radio station. He spoke at the Red Ribbon Week event at AMIkids-Jefferson. To end the month, Stanley participated in the Red Ribbon Celebration held at Eleanor McMain High School.

Stanley wound down the year in the same manner that he started off the year: full throttle.

Stanley was the keynote speaker at a workshop for the escorts for the Delta Sigma Theta debutantes, orchestrated by **PPO Vera Seals**. Vera received glowing reports from the sorority regarding the impact that Stanley's speech had on the young men. One parent said that her son actually apologized for negative things that he had done in the past, and expressed his sincere appreciation for everything that she has done for him. The young man even presented his mother with a rose. Keep flying all the way to the moon Mr. Schofield!!

Stanley had the opportunity to spread lots of inspirational tidings throughout the month of December. He was the keynote speaker at the Woodmere Playground Awards Banquet, guest speaker for Edna Karr Magnate High School, and visited our very own Riverside Alternative High School at BCCY. He was invited to Riverside by **Ms. Martin** and **Mrs. Robertson** who expressed great appreciation for having him as a speaker. On December 20th, Mr. Schofield finally hung up his boots and pulled in his sleigh after his last sighting at the Terrytown Academy. Thanks, PPO Schofield for the gift of inspiration!!

Successful Youth Recognized

PO Milton Crosby enthusiastically shared the news that a youth under his supervision, **Brandon W.**, was recognized by school officials for being an exemplary student because of his behavior, attendance, work ethic and academic progress in school. Brandon's "work effort grade" is currently a 98. Brandon's name and picture appeared in the Times-Picayune in conjunction with an article written about the school he attends, the Jefferson Foundation Academy. We are very proud of you Brandon!



Annual Coat Drive Successful

Region One kicked off its annual coat drive, spearheaded once again by **Roxann Tuircuit**. Infant shoes and book bags were given away during the drive. Because of generous contributions received from Central Office, BCCY, SCY, DHH and OCS and Region One, over 40 families were assisted through this endeavor.



Over 40 families were assisted through our annual coat drive.

A special kind of warmth is being spread throughout the Greater New Orleans area because of caring individuals. Thanks for the donations!

MADD Outreach Hosted

We hosted the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) outreach to parents of high school students, coordinated by **Roxann Tuircuit**. Guest speaker was **Cindy Savoy**.

The discussion was on ways to prevent underage drinking in our community, and ways in which volunteering time, resources and ideas can increase efforts in this noble fight to save lives. Several parents and staff attended. Very engaging, stimulating and informative dialogue transpired. Thanks, Roxann for making us MADD enough to stop and focus on a most worthwhile cause!!

AMikids Celebrates with Youth

We are proud of the “Jefferson Jaguar Football Team” at AMikids-Jefferson. The team played tirelessly throughout the year, earning them the reward of first place in the 3rd Annual AMikids, Louisiana Football Tournament in Alexandria. The Jaguars

earned the title as State Champs as they stripped it away from the Alexandria Panthers (AMikids Alexandria) who had held the title for two consecutive years.



Go “Jefferson Jaguars”

The Jaguars represented AMikids, Louisiana in the first “Bright Futures Bowl” in Tampa, Florida. They may not have won the match, but they are still ahead of the game, as they learned the value of working together to accomplish a common goal.

Congratulations again to our Jefferson Jaguars.



AMikids-Jefferson holiday luncheon.

AMikids-Jefferson held their Thanksgiving luncheon with a meal that was lovingly prepared and served to students by staff. **PPO Daria Melder** and **PO Kimberly Dickerson** attended the function. They had a most fulfilling time and left stuffed with joy and appreciation.

Last fall, the students at AMikids volunteered to serve at the Maison Deville Nursing Home. The students created oversized cards for the residents. One depicted the students as the

Louisiana Football Champions for 2010, an honor and accomplishment that afforded the team the opportunity to go to the AMI Superbowl in Florida.

ART Gets in on Giving

American Resource Technicians (ART) also got in on the giving. They provided two deserving families with gift certificates for \$50 dollars each. Thanks, ART, for your show of generosity!!

OJJ Daughter Featured in Advertising Materials

By Yezette White



My daughter, **Xzania Perzette White**, is a junior at Howard University in Washington, DC.

Pictured is a poster showing Xzania in the university bookstore, featuring Alpha Kappa Alpha merchandise. Her picture will also be in the bookstore's brochure. Xzania is an honor student, on the Dean's List, and serves as Student Ambassador and Chapel Assistant. She has mentored middle school youth in a program designed to motivate them to pursue their goals towards higher education. As an AKA she participates in many community service projects, including a partnership with Africare, an organization providing HIV awareness, clean water and shelter to those in need in Africa.

We continue to encourage her efforts to become an adolescent psychologist. Her dream is to provide services to underprivileged youth.

Natchitoches Regional Office

Congratulations



We are so proud of Administrative Coordinator 4 **Rosa Brownlee**. She graduated from Northwestern State University with a bachelor's degree in general studies with a concentration in criminal justice. "I started college in

order to be an example to my children," Rosa said. "I have tried to lead by example in every part of my life. My philosophy is "I can't expect my children to do something that I am not willing to do myself."

Chris Wyatt was promoted to PPO3.

Condolences

AC3 Virginia LeVasseur passed away recently, after serving the state of Louisiana for over 36 years. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Employees of the Month



PPS Simon Sarpy



PPO Chris Wyatt



AC3 Monica Breedlove



in Baton Rouge. Pictured are Rosa, Dr. Livers and Simon.

PPS Simon Sarpy and his wife **Frances, AC4 Rosa Brownlee** and a family friend, Jeanie Brownlee, attended the Central Office Christmas party

Veterans' Day Observed

In observance of Veteran's Day, **PPO Heather Christophe** along with WYC staff members **Linda Neighbors** and **Katie Process** assisted residents at Ware Youth Center Group Home in writing letters to the active military veterans serving our country.

Staff also honored our veterans with a breakfast: **PPS Simon Sarpy**, **PPO Brenda Sarpy** and **PPO Ieisha Beasley**, who is currently serving in Kuwait.

Staff attended and participated as judges for the Red River Junior High Science Fair.

AC3 Monica Breedlove was blessed with two new grandbabies. Joshua Simmons Bynog (below left) was born November 11 and Cadance Achord (below right) was born November 30.



PPO2 Deanna Williams shows off her daughter **Kalayah**, who arrived last summer.

Monroe Regional Office

Staff Training

PPO1 Mark Miller and **PPO1 Amanda Wilhite** completed the 16 hour Defensive Tactics Refresher course taught by **PPO3 Truett Glass** at Tallulah OJJ.

Program Specialist **Jacqueline Page** conducted CPR Training for Monroe OJJ staff. Thanks Jacqueline, great job!

Monroe OJJ field staff and supervisors participated in training on Motivational Interviewing conducted by Program Specialist **Walteree Barnes**, **PPO2 Cheryl Pringle**, **PPO3 Willie Hunter** and **PPS Gail Wilson**. The training was valuable and enjoyable.

The Men of Monroe OJJ Presented Thanksgiving

Monroe OJJ celebrated Thanksgiving with a traditional holiday meal. The men of Monroe OJJ took charge. They decorated, cooked, served the meal and cleaned up the kitchen. The food was delicious and the ladies enjoyed the special treatment. Hopefully, we've started a new tradition in Monroe. Thanks, gentlemen, it was wonderful and we have so much to be thankful for.



The men of Monroe OJJ who presented Thanksgiving.

Monroe OJJ completed our Annual United Way Campaign. **RM Patty Newman** supervised this year's campaign. Thanks to the staff who donated and made payroll deductions.

Monroe OJJ enjoyed a visit from Deputy Assistant Secretary/Facilities **Sean Hamilton**.

We welcomed back **PPO3 Hannah Dozier**, who was on leave after the birth of her daughter, **Payton**. Welcome back, Hannah – we missed you.

PPS Gail Wilson and **PPO3 Jennifer Bible** participated in planning meetings at Swanson for the Celebration of Change held at SCY in December. Those who attended from Monroe OJJ were **RM Patty Newman**, **PS Walteree Barnes**, **ES Debra Franklin**, **PPO3 Jennifer Bible**, **PPO3 Willie Hunter**, **PPO1 Jeremy Fox** and **PPO1 Valerie Nordstrom**.



PPO1 Valerie Nordstrom completed the 40 hour Defensive Tactics course taught by **PPO3 Gary Hunter** and **PPO3 Patrick Cooper**. Congratulations Valarie! Pictured is Regional Manager Patty Newman, left, presenting Valarie with her Defensive Tactics certificate.

“Character Counts” was our restorative justice topic last fall. During their youth contacts, officers discussed the seven pillars of Character Counts, and the importance of being a productive citizen.

Lake Charles Regional Office

Happy Anniversaries

In November:

PPO3 Fred Fontenot celebrated 13 years of OJJ service.

PPO3 Angie Stevens celebrated 2 years of OJJ service.

In December:

PPO3 Monet Newman celebrated 13 years of OJJ service.

PPO2 Garrick Chambers celebrated 3 ½ years of OJJ service.

PPO2 Jeff Haley celebrated two years of OJJ service.

PPO2 Hollie Comeaux celebrated two years of OJJ service.

Community Events

In December, **PPO Alexis Heflin** and **PPO Fred Fontenot** took a Boys Village resident to lunch as a reward for continued perfect behavior.

AMikids in Lake Charles (formerly Southwest LA Marine Institute) visited the Lake Charles Care Center to sing Christmas carols and pass out fruit to elderly residents. AMikids also purchased Christmas gifts for the two oldest residents of the Care Center.

During the Christmas season, AMikids/Southwest passed out blankets they had collected for needy families at Abraham's Tent, a local soup kitchen. A shared New Orleans OJJ and Lake Charles OJJ youth, **G.B.**, who was recently released from secure care, touched our hearts. G.B. is enrolled in day treatment as part of his reintegration from secure care. Without any prompting, encouragement, or even attention given, G.B.

decided to give his belt to someone at the center who was in need. (It was a NICE belt, not cheap or not old.) He was recognized for his generosity.

In December AMIkids conducted a symposium at the Best Western Richmond Suites in Lake Charles. **PPO Delisa Clark**, liaison for this facility, was present for the symposium.

PPO3 Rebecca Harmon has expressed her desire to become certified as the Lake Charles OJJ firearms instructor. She will attend the May NRA firearms instructor training school in Shreveport.

In December **Alexis Heflin and Monet Newman** conducted another Shoplifting Class at BeauCARE.

Alexis Heflin is planning a project to clean up the Beauregard Parish area. Alexis was selected by one of her probationers, **D.B.**, to attend a "graduation" dinner. He could only invite one guest, and he selected Ms. Heflin.



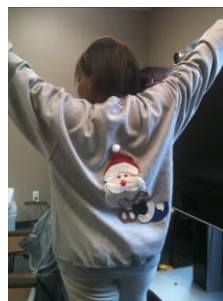
RM Ann Vick models "lock-up" garb.

Last fall, a sheriff's officer arrived at Lake Charles OJJ to transport **RM Ann Vick** to a "LOCK-UP for Jerry's Kids" and the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

Ann raised bail for this charity, and she won a beautiful plant as a door prize. Please keep the plant in your prayers, as it will need prayers if it has any chance of survival!

Christmas Celebration Featured Sweaters

Lake Charles OJJ had our annual Christmas party with a wonderful feast and a game of "Steal"/"Dirty Santa." **PPO Rebecca Harmon** won the office's door decorating contest. **PPO Garrick Chambers** and his father made the most outstanding gumbo ever tasted. Garrick also inspired the tacky Christmas sweater-themed party. He displayed his creativity by creating TWO amazing sweat-shirts, as modeled below by **Delisa Clark and Karli Pullard!**



Karli Pullard, left, and Delisa Clark, right, model Christmas sweaters, by designer Garrick Chambers!



Left, Erlene Pierce models her Snuggie. Right, bottom row: (L to R) Delisa Clark; Karli Pullard; top row (L to R) Melissa Cross, Hollie Comeaux, Annette Stoddard.

PPO3 Monet Newman displayed generosity in two cases, first by purchasing winter attire for a youth entering placement in a tee-shirt and shorts in December. The purchasing process would not have provided for him on the day of placement, so she made sure he was warm and had a few items to bring with him. The family was touched. **Monet's** generosity was again evident when she gave a voucher for a free turkey to one of the families she supervises. This family has suffered a great deal of loss and pain; the grandmother is raising several grandchildren, after her adult daughter died during childbirth. The family struggles financially and was moved to tears when presented with the opportunity for a holiday turkey.

PPO3 Fred Fontenot had two probationers featured in the sports section of the Lake Charles American Press for their football talents as running backs for local schools.

A youth in **PPO2 Hollie Comeaux** caseload was honored as student of the month in his alternative school. This recognition has inspired him to change his outlook on his educational endeavors.

PPO3 Rebecca Harmon and **PPO3 Fred Fontenot** assisted Jennings High School staff in presenting an Alcohol Awareness program for the students. Students participated in simulated driving exercises with special goggles, and were amazed at the impact alcohol can have on the ability to drive.

PPO2 Garrick Chambers and **PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist** brought several students from a small town in Allen Parish to a ULL game in Lafayette. The students were in awe over the large crowd and the stadium size.

PPO3 Karli Pullard did a great job in the case of S.H., who was full terming with OJJ but had no resources. S.H. earned her GED and Karli arranged for her to receive donated clothes. She has had an amazing attitude adjustment. Lots of hard work in this case!

Thank You...Thank You...Thank You

...to **PPO3 Monet Newman** who continues to lead our office in responding to SAVRY questions. Monet is an excellent trainer.

...to **Melissa Cross's unit** for 100% perfect attendance at CSOM Training. Great job!

...to **PPO3 Delisa Clark** and **PPO3 Karli Pullard** for volunteering to participate in a Social Committee to schedule office activities and morale boosters.

...**PPO2 Jeff Haley** for doing the Beauregard BeauCare Audit in the absence of other PPOs. This was much appreciated.

Further, **PPO Jeff Haley** got the Beauregard Fire Department to agree to allow community service to occur on site if BeauCare is unable to provide this opportunity.

...to **PPO3 Alexis Heflin** for working on Saturday to get job applications for Devonta B. and fulfilling your promise to this youth. It was so appreciated by him! It is commendable that you continue to think of the needs of this youth and assist him on weekends without any expectation of professional reimbursement or overtime! Great job! Also, **welcome back, Alexis Heflin!** We are so glad that you healed quickly, and we appreciate your speedy return from medical leave!

PPO Fred Fontenot's client, **O. Jackson**, was nominated for Player of the Week on KPLC Touchdown Live for making three touchdowns in first quarter as the starting running back for Sam Houston High School. This youth is excelling in school sports! Each week he continues to lead his team in rushing yards. Thank you to **PPO Jeff Haley** who also worked with this youth through transports, and he recruited votes for the Player of the Week title for this young man.

The Lake Charles OJJ team wants to send a very special "shout out" to **RM Angela T.**

Koenig! Ms. Koenig seems to be the most faithful reader of the "Lake Charles Gazette!" Each month, RM Koenig reads the submissions from the Lake Charles office and goes out of her way to acknowledge our detailed reports. As our biggest fan, we simply wanted to pay special tribute to her. If only you were visiting soon, we would celebrate with your own "very special cake" and you wouldn't have to give any of us a piece! ☺

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Lafayette OJJ held its annual Christmas lunch, and each unit brought something different for the meal, so there was a seemingly endless buffet of delicious goodies for all to share. Gifts were also exchanged, as the region held a Secret Santa game. All who attended ate their fill, and enjoyed good food and good camaraderie.



For the holidays, Lafayette OJJ donated canned goods and other non-perishables to put together food baskets for some of the less fortunate families serviced by the region. In the spirit of the holidays, we were able to give six families a very merry Christmas. Food baskets were put together for the families, but officers also donated toys and stuffed animals for the children in the home. Each family received a food basket and a gift basket. The families were picked from nominations sent in from the officers of the region, and the toys in the basket were geared toward the ages of the children in the families that were picked. The

program was spearheaded by **PPOs Jamie Moore, Paige Sieber and Andrea Potier.**



A food basket



Two of the gift baskets

Also showcasing the generosity of Lafayette OJJ, a coat drive spearheaded by **PPO Kevin Broussard** was held in December to benefit Faith House, a non-profit organization that provides shelter for abused women and children, and assists them in pressing charges against their abusers, finding housing, and finding employment. Coats were collected for the residents of the shelter, as well as stuffed animals for the children.

In the Christmas spirit, the units of the Lafayette and Opelousas offices were encouraged to decorate their doors and walls for the holidays. The staff put their thinking caps on, and came up with some great ideas to make the office more festive. **PPS Steve Neef's** unit came up with a "Twelve Months of OJJ" theme, based on the Twelve Days of Christmas, thanks to the creative minds of **PPOs Andrea Potier, Heather Campbell and Jody Osmer.**

The Twelve Months of OJJ Christmas were:

12 Psych Evals
11 PDIs
10 Checklists
9 Transports
8 Court Dates
7 Office Moves
6 Social Histories
5 ISPs
4 Lead 3s
3 SAVRYs
2 Unit Moves
1 New RM



Pictured above and below: doors depicting the Twelve Days of OJJ Christmas.



Congratulations

PPOs Sam Moore and **Scott Peyton** graduated from the POST Academy in November. Sam won the Physical Fitness Award, and Scott won the Academic Award. The Lafayette and Opelousas offices are proud of their accomplishments, and are very glad to have them back. **RM Susan Miller** thanks them for their commitment while in the academy.

PPO Wanda Sylvester and her husband, **Harry**, welcomed their second child, a son, Hodge Edward, in August.

PPO Nick Landry and his wife, **Amanda**, welcomed their first child, a son, Jacob James, in November.

Welcome

Lafayette OJJ welcomed a new addition to our clerical staff, **Danielle Bias**. We hope Danielle feels among friends at OJJ, and we look forward to working with her to meet the mission.

Community Activities

PPO Kevin Broussard spent a weekend in December at Abbeville High School, helping the speech team run its annual speech and debate tournament. Kevin ran and tabulated all debate events, and was very impressed by the talent of many of the debaters in the competition.

Kevin also volunteered in the running and judging of Lafayette High School's speech and debate tournament. He debated for Lafayette High and feels that speech and debate is a wonderful extracurricular activity that provides youth with useful skills for college and professional life.

Lafayette OJJ celebrated Thanksgiving with a luncheon that featured fried turkey, courtesy of the region's own Paul Prudhomme, chef **PPS Joey Denais**. Staff brought appetizers, side dishes, and desserts. The food was out of this world, and no one left hungry.

Not to forget the less fortunate folk that we work with, the **Holiday Committee**, consisting of **PPOs Justin Beasley, Kevin Broussard, Rhonda Gallet, Jamie Moore, Paige Sieber, Wanda Sylvester, Jason Trahan, PPS Ernie Bejeaux**, and headed by **RM Susan Miller**, came up with ways for Lafayette OJJ to celebrate the holiday season, while giving back to the community. One of

the ideas came to fruition when six Thanksgiving baskets, filled with items donated by Lafayette and Opelousas staff members, made their ways to needy families, chosen from numerous families nominated from the caseloads in the region. **PPO Jamie Moore** was able to have turkeys donated, while **PPO Kevin Broussard** had fresh baked pies donated. **PPO Andrea Potier** donated and decorated the baskets. The baskets were delivered by the officers and the families were extremely grateful for the outpouring of support by the staff of Lafayette OJJ. **RM Susan Miller** said, "This was an effort that was put together with very little notice. However, the staff came together and provided an incredible gift to some families that were very much in need."



Holiday baskets created by Lafayette OJJ for needy families.



Staff Participate in Unique Holiday Event

PPO Rhonda Gallet and her husband, John, participated in a wonderful and heart-warming event this past holiday season.

John, who is the Transportation Safety Administrator at the Lafayette Regional Airport, spearheaded Fantasy Flight for 100 needy children, ages 4-8.

The project was hosted by Continental Airlines. The children boarded an airplane at the airport. They were told they were going to fly to the North Pole to meet Santa Claus. The children were told it would be a quick flight, and that they had to close their eyes and window shades because Santa did not want anyone to know where he lives.

The plane never actually took off, though. Instead, the pilot revved the engines to simulate a takeoff, and taxied to a hangar on the other side of the airport, decorated like the North Pole and Santa's workshop.

The children were greeted by Mrs. Claus and the elves, who worked with them at crafts stations to make mementos of the trip. Before they boarded the plane to "return home," the children met Santa, and were given a gift from their wish lists, as well as a pair of new shoes and a new coat. The wish lists, shoe sizes, and coat sizes were provided by the school counselors who nominated the children for the "trip."

Rhonda was very excited to participate in this event, and she said she hoped to give these less-fortunate children a Christmas they would never forget!



Jetson Center for Youth

A Message from the Director

There are many things that I am grateful for as we begin the new year. However, the most important things aren't things at all, they are people. During the holiday season we found ourselves getting so caught up in the hustle and bustle of trying to get things done, that we tend to forget what is really important - the love, happiness and well-being of family and friends. I wanted to take a moment to tell all my staff here at the Jetson Center for Youth that I am grateful for each and every one of you. You all make a difference.

There is no way that I can do my job without your assistance. The efforts and tireless hours that you all contribute to this facility do not go unnoticed. I appreciate all that you do and even when you think that your efforts have gone unnoticed, they have not. Just like the hustle and bustle of the holidays can sometimes deter us from what is truly important during this season, so can the responsibilities of our work. So, I say this to you... If I have not taken a moment to let you know just how much you are appreciated lately, I am doing so now. I believe that I have the best staff around and you prove it to me constantly with the fine work that you do here.

I would like to take a moment to thank you for all that you do and all that you have done. 2011 will be great...

Director Daron Brown

Condolences

The Jetson family lost a long-time employee last fall with the death of **JJS6 Larry Shropshire**. Larry served at Jetson for 26 years. He is dearly missed, and we offer heartfelt condolences to his family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Highlight on Two of Jetson's Finest

It is with great honor, pride and pleasure that we highlight two of JCY's newest and most dedicated staff members, **Social Service Counselor 2 Courtney Robottom** and **Professional Counselor 1 Cherita Irvin**. Jetson, along with our two sister facilities, Bridge City Center for Youth and Swanson Center for Youth, all participate in quarterly audits of youth records. During the summer quarter Cherita and Courtney submitted multiple records with ZERO deficiencies. This is definitely "letting your work speak for itself." These two ladies exemplify integrity, hard work, dedication, professional ethics and a love for assisting our youth in becoming productive citizens of our state.

Courtney Robottom is a graduate of LSU with a Bachelor of Science in Family, Child and Consumer Sciences. She has several years of experience in social service work. Courtney demonstrates outstanding professionalism and hard work, according to the youth in Sunrise Dormitory. During interviews with the entire dorm, the statements were unanimous: "Ms. Robottom really cares about us and works beyond the call of duty for us." The youth also reported on meaningful and intense individual and group sessions conducted by her. Courtney has had the opportunity to participate in five quarterly audits since being hired at Jetson and has had ZERO deficiencies on several youth records three of the five times. She definitely can be described as consistent, proficient, hard working, caring and loving her work. These are traits that cannot be taught.

Cherita Irvin is a graduate of Southern University in New Orleans, with a Master's in criminal justice and a Bachelor of Science in psychology and minor in mathematics. She has five years of social service experience. Cherita has worked at Jetson for about a year and reports "the best is yet to come." She credits her work ethic to her strong, hard-working parents, who taught her to put GOD

first. Cherita was described by the youth in Summer dormitory as very kind and gentle, "however she can be firm if we are not doing the things we are supposed to do in our day to day programming." Several of the youth commented on conversations she holds with them outside of individual and group sessions, that mean a lot to them. "She doesn't spend time with us because it is a requirement; she does it because she cares about what we are going through and she wants us to succeed in life," report several of the youth in Summer dormitory.

Director Daron Brown presented these ladies with Certificates of Honor and Achievement, acknowledging their tireless efforts and untold hours and dedication, to not just doing the job, but doing it well, consistent and in keeping with La MOD programming.

These young ladies were able to not just say what they were doing, but document it as well. Hats off to **Courtney Robottom** and **Cherita Irvin** for a job well done.

Fourth La MOD Graduating Class of 2010

Jetson closed the decade with its fourth and final LaMOD class of new employees. Holidays peppered throughout this cycle of staff development made for a long haul in staff development for the class of 17, who were eager to do what they were hired to do.



The recent LaMod class at Jetson.

Della Bolden, Anthony Bridges, Charmaine Broussard, Paula Cage, Kimberly Edmond, Janelle Green, Denita Jackson, Tina Johnson, Kenya Laverne, Andrew Mickles, Marvel Reese, Joe Riser, Louis Roquemore, Adrain Skipper, Lashaunda Spears, Morning Ward and Christopher Waters will share their experiences and knowledge from various disciplines and life experiences with Jetson youth in their roles as counselors, educators, juvenile justice specialists and dietitian.



Embrace Change - a seed has to change in order for us to enjoy the beauty of a tree.

The theme for the graduation program was **Embracing Change**. **Andrew Mickles** led the group in reciting the Mission, **Della Bolden** directed the Vision and **Anthony Bridges** the Guiding Principles.

Director Daron Brown and **Program Manager Belinda Thomas** spoke words of encouragement to the graduates. Director Brown also addressed concerns expressed by the new staff members.



A note of pride from a Jetson staff member

Dear Director Brown:



**United States Marine
Corps Sgt. Major
Victor P. Singleton**
Marine Medium Tiltrotor
Squadron 161, Marine
Aircraft Group 16, 3D
Marine Aircraft Wing
MCAS Miramar

My youngest brother, **Victor P. Singleton**, is enlisted in the US Marine Corps and has done exceptionally well in receiving honors, awards and promotions throughout his military career. *After growing up in a community where there were so many negative influences all around*, he chose the military and has once again proven, like many others, when you make right choices, you can accomplish whatever you set your heart and mind to do. As his big sister I am VERY proud of him. Even though he has all this rank behind him, he will always be my baby brother.

Thank you,
Ramona Garror, JJS2

Engines Are Revving Up At Scenic Alternative High School

Thirteen students successfully completed the national certification examination for two and four stroke engine repair last fall. The certificates are on a national register and will follow the students into their communities where they can seek gainful employment. The students worked very hard to accomplish this goal. They are excited about getting to this level in their trade and looking forward to the future.

Instructors Larry Poor and Samuel Butler are to be commended for their efforts toward improving the skills of the students in their classes. They have produced more nationally

certified students than any other training program of this type in the nation.

These instructors have made significant gains toward OJJ's mission and vision of redirecting students toward responsible citizenship and helping them to become productive citizens. **Principal Ronnie Knox** said these teachers are pushing students through the rigors of the national certification. We appreciate the dedication of these men to our students.

Aristotle and Newton "Teach" Youth at Scenic Alternative High School



Science teacher extraordinaire, **Mr. Dwayne Nedie**, was up in the air with students in his class. His recent lesson on gravitational acceleration and the effects of wind resistance along with Newton's second law of motion had the students calculating and demonstrating these two concepts. The hands-on activity involved teams of students making parachutes and measuring the time it took in seconds for the parachute to hit the ground. They then tied a plastic soldier to the parachute and measured the time it took in seconds for the person/parachute to land, in honor of Veteran's Day. Once completed, the students discussed the law of gravitational acceleration and the effects of wind resistance, and they could perform calculations.

The lesson on law of motion showed students how force is used to increase motion of a moving object. Several examples were given to help with content understanding. Mr. Nedie asked probing questions throughout the lesson.

It has become quite evident that Mr. Nedie's science class is one of the students' favorite classes of the day. **Principal Ronnie Knox** gave Mr. Nedie a superior rating on his walk-through observation documentation.



Mr. Nedie at work.

Hammond Regional Office

SUPERSTAR!

Hammond OJJ's Superstar for November was **PPO 2 Daniel Johnson**. He was recognized by **PPO1 Jamie Oertel** for bringing paperwork to the courthouse.

PPO Kasey Wall was the Hammond OJJ Superstar for December. She was recognized by **PPO Dana May** for helping with a Tangipahoa case in Hammond City Court.

The Spirit of Giving

Hammond OJJ staff donated \$2.00 and/or canned goods in exchange for the privilege of wearing jeans. These canned goods are usually donated to the Tangi Food Pantry, but we decided to donate food to four needy families from our caseloads for the holidays. The money was be used to purchase turkeys for the families who received the canned goods. Each supervisory unit chose a family to receive the food baskets.

PPS Carrie Austin's staff donated to Dewayne T. and his family. According to Dewayne's probation officer, **Jamie Oertel**, he has come full circle since being placed on probation.



PPS Carrie Austin and PPOs Daniel Johnson, Jamie Oertel, Jennifer Sirchia, Kristin Rainey, Dana May and Denise Wall.



PPO Leigh Calmes, PPO Christy Ford, PPS Roy Wittorf, PPO Kevin Kulivan, PPO Tiffany James, PPO Mark Davis, PPO Renee Barrois.

PPS Roy Wittorf's staff donated to Avery C. and his family. Although Avery is in custody, there are three small children, age 6 and under, in the home. The staff also took small gifts to each of the kids in the home.

PPS Johnny Prentice's staff donated to Ebony and Kelvin V. and their family. Their grandmother, who is raising them, was overjoyed by the donation.



PPO Danielle August, PPO Theresa Andries, PPO Jenna Hill, PPS Dawnita Hodge, PPO Mark Benton, PPO Kasey Wall.

PPS Dawnita Hodge's staff donated to Andrew S. and his family. Andrew's mother was very thankful for the donation.

We Are Thankful



Turkey treats made by PPO Tiffany James.

Hammond OJJ held its Thanksgiving Luncheon with everyone pitching in and bringing a dish. Staff enjoyed lots of delicious food and desserts!

Training presented

Program Specialist Jacqueline Page presented training on IV-E Candidacy for Supervision Cases to Hammond OJJ staff during our November staff meeting.

Provider Meeting Held

A provider meeting was held in the Hammond office in December. **Joey Dominick**, with Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center, presented a training session on bullying.

Holiday Party Hosted for Community



Hammond OJJ decorated for Christmas.

Hammond OJJ hosted a Christmas party that was attended by contract providers, local law enforcement and retirees. We had great food and a really good time. Our decorating committee did a wonderful job making our office festive for the party. **PPO Tiffany James** served as our photographer and set up a backdrop for staff to take pictures.

If the first thing you do in the morning is feed the hen at your office....you might be a redneck



Hammond OJJ has a pet! A guinea hen appeared behind our office several months ago. A few people started feeding her and it looks like she's here to stay. Every morning, and each day after lunch, our hen can be seen looking through the back door of our office. It's as if she's letting us know she's hungry and waiting to be fed! The photo shows our guinea hen waiting for her breakfast by the back door to the office

Red Ribbon Week



For Red Ribbon Week, **PPOs Shirley Verberne and Jennifer Sirchia** spoke to students at Mater

Dolorosa School about the dangers of drug use. Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program. Millions of Americans observe Red Ribbon Week during the last week of October. By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free life. *Photo: PPOs Shirley Verberne and Jennifer Sirchia with students of Mater Dolorosa*

Congratulations on Graduation

PPO Danny Mingea graduated from the Academy in November. Danny transferred to the Hammond office from the New Orleans office, and went to the Academy when he transferred. He was finally able to meet the people he works with when he returned. We're excited to have him as a part of our team.

United Way Campaign Successful



RM Julie Eudy presents Greg Loushine of United Way with our donation.

Our United Way campaign ended in November. The office was separated into four groups that competed to see which group could raise the most money. Our teams came up with very good fundraising ideas. We had a bake sale, a silent auction, a football board, and someone cooked lunches. Others donated money or pledged a payroll deduction. Our office raised \$1818.00 for United Way. At our November staff meeting **Greg Loushine**, Executive Director for our local chapter, was presented with the donations and pledge forms. Greg told our staff that United Way's goal was to reach 30% of their total goal (\$540,000) before Thanksgiving. Our office donation got them to their goal! The Blue Team raised the most money for the United Way and was treated to lunch by **RM Julie Eudy**.

Central Office

New Faces at Central Office

We welcomed two members of the executive team. **Undersecretary Alan Boxberger** returned to the Legislative Fiscal Office, and OJJ was fortunate to have found an outstanding new Undersecretary, **Connie Percell**.

Connie brings almost 30 years of experience to her position, coming to OJJ from the House Fiscal Office, where she served as a budget analyst. She has also served at the DoA State Budget Office, and spent 17 years at the Department of Revenue.

Connie loves kids, and she had the opportunity to meet some of our kids at Jetson on her first day with OJJ. She visited JCY for a media tour, and found herself on the evening news that night.



Karen E. Stubbs is our new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Relations, Communications and Training. This is not a new section; it was formerly called SPEAK (Special Projects, Education and Knowledge).



No stranger to OJJ, Karen served for over two years as Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet in the Office of the Governor. She was in charge of coordination and collaboration with the state's five youth-serving agencies: OJJ, DHH, DCFS, DOE and the LA Workforce Commission. Karen was on the road from day one, representing OJJ at the CSoc Town Hall meetings being held statewide.



Say it isn't so! We wished Undersecretary Alan Boxberger a fond farewell but Dr. Livers found it hard to let go of such a dedicated and capable finance chief.

Condolences

Several CO staff have had deaths in their families. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Nita Franklin-Shanklin lost her grandfather, Robert Vicks, who was 91. Nita is Dr. Livers' assistant.

ACA Accreditation Manager Angela Arabie lost her brother, Michael Martinez.

HR Analyst Latrice Bracken's mother-in-law, Ida Bell Bracken, passed away.

Program Coordinator Roslyn Foster lost her father.

Congratulations



Program Manager/Interstate Compact Administrator Angela Bridgewater was honored with a baby shower, just in time for the birth of her new son, **Jacob Ethan Bridgewater**, who arrived February 7, weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces. The Community-Based Services staff went all out to decorate the classroom and they served a wonderful lunch for all central office staff to enjoy.

We Raise Funds to Help Others

For Christmas, OJJ Central Office donated \$457.00 to the Queen of Peace Home and Soup Kitchen, operated by the Missionaries of Charity, the religious institute for women founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The shelter is located at St. Agnes Catholic Church in downtown Baton Rouge. The shelter houses 15-25 ladies and children. The kitchen provides a brunch to approximately 35 – 40 homeless people every day, except Thursday and Sunday. The fundraising efforts were chaired by **Nita Franklin-Shanklin** and **NyKisha Franklin** along with the rest of the Morale Committee members: **Marvel Adams, Latrice Bracken, Clarett Blount, Gwen Brinkley, Wade Campbell, Suzie Durrett, Shirley Jackson, Katie Kirkpatrick Justice, Phyliss Martello, Terri Scott, Shaeki Shanklin** and **Jason Williams**.

We had a very successful United Way campaign under the leadership of **Deputy Undersecretary Marianne Buchanan** and her **Adm. Asst. Marvel Adams**. Our goal was \$8,000. The Hammond and Monroe Regional offices participated with Central Office in the campaign. Between payroll deductions and several fundraisers, we raised



\$8,247.00. Molly Britten of United Way visited to accept a check and recognize OJJ's efforts to support United Way. Pictured are, from left, former

Undersecretary Alan Boxberger, Marvel Adams, Molly Britten, Marianne Buchanan and Nita Franklin-Shanklin.

We raised \$705.00 for Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center's Fight Cancer Campaign, through bake sales and fundraisers.

Christmas at CO Celebrated with Song

The Morale Committee performed another miracle by presenting a fabulous luncheon, complete with "entertainment" by the executive team "choir." **HR Director Gwen Jones** performed a miracle of her own by whipping the executive team into shape to "sing" carols to the staff. We were delighted with a surprise performance by the CO in-house group **Tony and the Templetts** and their spirited rendition of "This Christmas."



Dr. Livers and HR Director/Choir Mistress Gwen Jones lead the vocally-challenged executive team in song.

Below: Tony and the Templetts rock the house. The names have been withheld to protect the guilty, but these performers look suspiciously like Adm. Asst. Shaeki Shanklin, HR Specialist Tony Square, Adm. Asst. NyKisha Franklin and Nita Franklin-Shanklin.



OJJ Christmas Party Provided an Opportunity to Visit in Style

Thanks to party chairwomen **Adm. Asst. Gwen Brinkley** and **Accountant Wanda Armwood** for putting on a lovely evening event at Courtland's Catering. Many central office staff attended, and a number of Field Services staff traveled to Baton Rouge to celebrate the holidays and visit over delicious food in an elegant setting. Everyone was dressed to kill and had the opportunity to cut a rug on the dance floor. A wonderful time was had by all!



Enjoying the OJJ Christmas party are DAS Carolyn Lewis, Nita Franklin-Shanklin, Dir. of Education Kim Mims and HR Director Gwen Jones.



Shaeki Shanklin's niece, Kendall Cannon, served as Queen on the Royal Court of the 60th Annual Downtown Baton Rouge Christmas parade. Kendall has served as OJJ's cover girl in some of our publications.

Bridge City Center for Youth

A Celebration of Change

The "Celebration of Change" was a reunion to honor former OJJ employees and celebrate the changes that have occurred through the LaMOD process. A wonderful luncheon was prepared by the cafeteria staff and the culinary arts students. Special guests included **Judge Tracy Fleming-Davillier**; **Toyin Idewu** from the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court; **Kevin Riley**, Supervisor/Chief Probation Officer, Plaquemines Parish DYFS; **Furusa Passmore**, Rise "N" Shine; **Brenda Johnson**, Houma City Court; **Betty Dufrene** and **June Washington**, Youth Advocate Program. The keynote speaker was **Bryan Moore**, Director of the New Orleans Office of Workforce Development. Thanks to the committee members who went the extra mile to present a wonderful event: **Kim Hampton**, chair; **Sharon McClinton**, Mistress of Ceremonies; **Yolanda Page**, **Cherise Gougisha**, **Carolyn Dillon**, **Sharonda Smith**, **Veronica George**, **Darlene Anderson**, **Mary Gatlin**, **Bella Berry**, **Chef Ron Sonnier** and the **Culinary Arts students** and **PPO Khristina Koontz** of New Orleans OJJ.



The gym was decorated to the max and packed with guests for the Celebration of Change.

Employee Appreciation Breakfast

The Employee Appreciation Breakfast held last fall began at 6:30 a.m. and ended at 9 a.m., so that all the employees could stop by the Culinary Arts dining room either on their way home or on their way in to work. The room was decorated by Administrative Staff, who did a great job of warming up the room with a festive fall theme. The cafeteria staff and the culinary students put together a great array of breakfast foods including scrambled eggs, grits, assorted breakfast meats and hot biscuits, all served with coffee, juice or milk. The evening shift coming on was served chicken and sausage jambalaya with white beans, garlic bread and cupcakes. It was a great success and everyone enjoyed the kickoff to their day and the camaraderie between the different departments.



Top: the breakfast buffet was set up to tempt. Below: Principal Roy Higgins with Jeleta Jordan and Brad Church are served beverages at the breakfast.



Education Department Presents Thanksgiving Celebration

The Thanksgiving Celebration held in November was presented by the Education Department with the theme of "Thankful For Not a Second Chance But Another Chance." The education committee led by **Ms. C. Martin**, **Ms. B. Berry**, **Ms. T. Robertson**, and **Chef Ron Sonnier** did a great job putting together a program focused on doing the right thing with the opportunities our students are given in life.

The program was held in the gymnasium and decorated with a Thanksgiving décor. The students and staff all enjoyed lunch together. Guest speakers **Oliver Thomas** and Associate **Hakim Kashif** spoke to the students about how the important decisions they make today will make all the difference in their future. The students had a special visit from former student **Alexander Bruce** who was recently released from BCCY. Bruce noted the fact that the opportunity to get another chance in life has made all the difference in the decisions he is making today. He gave credit to the all the staff for redirecting him into a better life choices.



The Honor Guard presents the flag at the Thanksgiving Program.



Guest speakers at the Thanksgiving Program, left to right, Oliver Thomas and Associate Hakim Kashif.



Dessert table prepared by Culinary Arts students for the Thanksgiving Program.



Teachers help serve the Thanksgiving lunch.

PbS Data Collection Period Kicked Off



BCCY's PbS Leadership Team kicked off the Performance-based Standards October 2010 Data Collection with a check-in meeting. All the team members reported that they felt great about the data collection and the processes in place to gather the data. Our team and facility goal for this data collection is to reach Level 3.

BCCY Blue Jays Meet the Challenge



No, we did not win the game, but our boys put up a valiant effort. In November BCCY's basketball team, the Blue Jays, played their first game of the season at BCCY, opposite Swanson Center for Youth's basketball team. Our youth met the challenge of being respectful and courteous at all times, receiving no violations, participating in all therapeutic groups and sessions, meeting the expectations set throughout the campus, and maintaining at least a 2.0 grade point average. There is even a youth on the team with a GPA of 3.3. The youth have worked hard on and off the court, undergone three rounds of tryouts and played in their first scrimmage game. The team is centered around working as a team, remaining focused, and consistently and ultimately being kids and having fun.

Fall Fest Hosted for Youth

Through the collaboration of the Volunteer Services Program and the Recreation Department, along with assistance from the Executive Team members, BCCY's Fall Festival hosted by No Cross No Crown Church members was a blast. The event included devotion, a gospel rapper, inspirational speakers, lunch and a live band. There were games including tug-o-war, obstacle course and sack races, frisbee toss, milk throw, horseshoe throw, and a variety of prizes. From the feedback received by dormitory Group Leaders, the youth truly enjoyed themselves.



Scenes from the Fall Festival. Bottom, No Cross No Crown Volunteers



Different Departments Participate in Teaching Students at BCCY

Marla White, Investigative Services employee at BCCY, was talking one day about taking a cake decorating class when she was asked by Chef Sonnier to help in teaching the students a few techniques in the art. She was excited to participate and even more excited when she discovered how much the students wanted to learn.

The students were ready for her the first morning with cakes baked and the icing ready to spread when she arrived. The students' anticipation of being able to decorate cakes like the professional bakeries was overwhelming. They started off learning the technique of trimming the cake, creating flat even surfaces and sides. Then they went into the spreading of creamy butter cream icing on the cake.

The next step took them into learning how to use the different pastry tips to form decorative shapes on the cake. The students were given pastry bags to practice with and eventually got the hang of how to hold the bag and make simple decorations. By the end of the first class, Marla couldn't believe how interested the students were and how fast they were catching on.

The next class was a little more difficult, with students learning to make intricate flowers like roses and leaves for the cake. Again, Marla was taken away by the talent of the students. Marla was joined by **Ivory Glover** from the cafeteria, who was formerly a cake decorator for Gambino's Bakery. The two ladies worked very closely with the students and before they knew it, the students were mastering the techniques.

The whole experience for everyone involved with the classes was great. When it came time to decorate a cake for the Celebration of Change, the students did a wonderful job. Thanks to Marla and Ivory for taking the time

to share their talents with the students of Culinary Arts.



Top and center: Marla White and Ivory Glover demonstrating cake decorating techniques, while Culinary Arts students practice. Bottom: the students' first cake - a masterpiece.

BCCY Staff Learns “Verbal Judo”



Verbal Judo class conducted at BCCY.

The staff at BCCY were trained in “Verbal Judo,” a tactical communications program presented by **Mike Manley**, Vice President of Operations for The Verbal Judo Institute, in Staten Island, New York.

Mike described his program as “Tactical Empathy” and says if you work with the public on a daily basis, you need Verbal Judo. Verbal Judo directly addresses how to control a classroom, how to deal with rebellious and angry students, and how to handle questioning parents and administrators. He teaches the skills necessary to remain calm and focused during a verbal encounter, and the tactics necessary to redirect and diffuse difficult situations. Verbal Judo will make you an expert at persuasion by showing you how to generate voluntary compliance from the most truculent and difficult people,” Mike said. He described it as the “martial arts” of the mind and the mouth, and says you will be able to deflect verbal attacks and use your words to achieve professional purposes. Your level of stress will decrease because your skill level has increased.

The goal of the course is to generate voluntary compliance from our students in and out of the classroom. Mike kept everyone’s undivided attention as he related actual encounters he experienced as a New York City police officer/supervisor for over two decades, performing hands-on conflict resolution in the streets.

Former BCCY Teacher Gives the Gift of Life

Lillian Colar, former BCCY Riverside Alternative High School Options Instructor, donated a kidney to her best friend, **Zachary Calvin**. The two have been friends since attending L.B. Landry High School in Algiers together. Lillian had no brothers and Zachary had no sisters, so they adopted each other as such. After many years of being a workaholic and a health and fitness buff, Zachary was informed that both of his kidneys had failed. No family members were found to be a suitable match for Zachary. Lillian would not hear it any other way – she wanted to help her friend. She was tested and found to be a close match. When her kidney was placed into Zachary, it functioned immediately. Lillian’s recovery will be less complicated than Zachary’s. This act of kindness just proves that friendship and kindness go a long way.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Congratulations

Transport Officer Paul Kopan was selected **Employee of the Month** for December. Paul’s coworkers nominated him because he is always willing to help. He is dependable, helpful and dedicated.

PPO Katina Broden was selected **Employee of the Month** for November. Katina’s coworkers nominated her because she is always smiling, motivating others and in good spirits around the office.



Congratulations to **PPO Andrew Bonner** who graduated from the P&P Post Academy. Welcome back, Andrew.

Training

PPO Yolonda Latimer and **PPS Michelle Thomas** completed CPR/First Aid.

PPOs Keelan Robinson, Andre Williams, Courtney Dickerson, Shantia Roy and **Yolonda Latimer** attended firearms training at the range in Amite in preparation for POST Academy.

PPS Cobie Chauvin and **PPS Wendy Sarner** attended CPTP on-going training for supervisors.

We Celebrated Holidays by Thinking of Others



Baton Rouge OJJ celebrated the Christmas holiday by donating Toys for Tots. Special thanks to **PPO Stefanie Krygowski** for heading the campaign.

Operation Feed a Needy OJJ Family

Baton Rouge OJJ celebrated the month of November through the giving experience by providing food baskets for our needy families. This is the third year the office decided to forego our traditional Thanksgiving luncheon to provide for those who are less fortunate. The office gathered together and provided 10 families with enough food to create a Thanksgiving Day feast.

The baskets were hand-decorated in fall colors by our very own staff and filled with all of the traditional Thanksgiving Day trimmings. Each family received a big turkey and a special home delivery two days before Thanksgiving.

Special thanks to **SSC Jennifer Anderson, PPO Roy McBride, PPO Courtney Dickerson, PPO Patsy Adams** and everyone who helped to put the baskets together. Also, thanks to everyone for their donations and continued dedication to our "Operation Feed a Needy OJJ Family."



Above, RM Sue Larisey puts together a food basket. Below, some of the items for the baskets.



"T" for Teamwork

A "Special Thanks" to the entire Baton Rouge Office for their support and sacrifice to provide food to the needy through "Operation Feed a Needy OJJ Family." Together, we all put the "T" in Teamwork.



SSC Jennifer Anderson's door, decorated for Christmas.

You're Looking Good

PPS Rickey Cannon is "looking good" for "Operation Help a family, help another family." Rickey pulled up to a local food market and was approached by an elderly lady who needed assistance for her grandchildren. She explained that her daughter had been recently incarcerated and she was left to care for her grandchildren with no assistance. She told Rickey that she did not want any money, but food from the grocery store. She accompanied Rickey into the store where she shopped for several items to feed her family. Rickey spoke with a few employees and verified that this was not a common practice or holiday scam. Rickey paid for the items and the lady was very grateful for his kindness.

On another occasion, Rickey was leaving the parking lot of his church, when a couple passing by stopped and asked if he knew of any organizations giving away food for Thanksgiving. Rickey said that he did not, but remembered that we were giving away baskets for "Operation Feed a Needy OJJ Family." He contacted our office and asked if a basket could be put together for this needy family. He offered to pay for all of the items including the turkey. Rickey directed the couple to our office and they received a food basket from us. We had enough items to fill the basket and Rickey donated the extra turkey. We're watching you, PPS Rickey Cannon, and thanks for reminding us that "God will make a way somehow." Community, family and good citizenship, good job PPS Rickey Cannon!



Kudos

Kudos to PPO Brandon Woods for attending the Youth Challenge graduation in Alexandria to support the youth he mentors. Brandon was asked to be the youth's mentor a few months ago when the youth enrolled in the Youth Challenge Program.

Kudos to PPO Patsy Adams for her efforts to restore self-esteem and hope into the life of one of our youth. This youth was involved in a physical altercation with one of her relatives, which caused her to lose her two front teeth. The youth already suffered from low self-esteem so the loss of her teeth has really been a problem. The youth's mother refused to press charges or seek medical attention. Patsy encouraged the mother to take the youth to the dentist to have the teeth replaced. Since the mother does not have transportation, Patsy requested special permission to transport the youth and her parent to all of the dental appointments. Patsy is diligent in her efforts to restore this youth's dental health.

Kudos to PPO Stefanie Krygowski for traveling with a youth and his mother to ULL to tour the campus. Stefanie is a true advocate for higher education for our youth. She not only encouraged a youth and his mother to explore his college options, but she actually toured the ULL campus with them. The youth was able to speak with a freshman advisor, tour the different dorms and visit the different colleges and classrooms. The youth and his mother were very thankful for her presence and additional support.



"Friendship isn't about who you have known the longest. It's about those who came and never left your side"

Alexandria Regional Office

Holidays Celebrated with Food and Fun



Alexandria OJJ Staff enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner and played the "Dirty Santa" game.

Staff all gathered together to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner in November with the traditional Thanksgiving dishes, and did it again for our Christmas dinner.

Congratulations

PPOs Cory Laborde and **Brian Charles** have successfully completed the POST Academy. **Supervisors Clay Dupuy** and **John Baker** attended the graduation ceremony. We are very proud of Brian and Cory and glad they are back at work.

Congratulations to **PPO1 Franklin Parrino**, who is the proud father of his new baby boy, **Noah Nicholas Parrino**, born November 9, weighing 9 lbs. 6 oz.

Welcome Back

We are glad to have **PPO3 Donna Desoto** back with us at work after being away due to illness.

30 Keys to Success

1. Drink plenty of water.
2. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.
3. Live with Energy, Enthusiasm and Empathy
4. Play more games
5. Take a 10-30 minute walk daily. While you walk, smile.
6. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
7. Don't have negative thoughts about things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.
8. Don't over do. Know your limits.
9. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
10. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip.
11. Dream more while you are awake.
12. Envy is a waste of time. You already have everything you need.
13. Forget past issues. Don't remind your partner of with his/her mistakes. That will ruin your present happiness.
14. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
15. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
16. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
17. Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are part of the curriculum that appear and fade away. The lessons you learn will last a lifetime.
18. You don't have to win every argument.
19. Call your family often.
20. Each day give something good to others.
21. Forgive everyone for everything.
22. Spend time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 6.
23. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
24. What other people think of you is none of your business.
25. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
26. Do the right thing!
27. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
28. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
29. Please send prayer and positive thoughts for those in need today.
30. The best is yet to come.



Recipes of the Month

*BCCY Culinary Arts
& Occupations*



Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC

Last fall was very busy with lots of fun activities on campus that included a Celebration of Change, employee breakfast, a Thanksgiving celebration and special tours. Of course the students of Culinary Arts were given lots of opportunities to show off their abilities to make all the functions extra special.

As you can tell we have been very busy. As we got into the Christmas season we continued to keep the trend going. Then the Mardi Gras season was upon us! And Easter is around the corner. I have put together some recipes sure to make any celebration with family and friends a little more special. These recipes are good but also make it easy to entertain during an already hectic season.

C'EST SI BON!

Chef Ron Sonnier

Chef Sonnier's Bread Pudding

10 – 12 slices fresh white bread
 ¼ lb. salted butter, softened
 2 cups granulated sugar
 10 large eggs
 2 cups heavy whipping cream
 1 cup whole milk
 1 cup white raisins
 1 tbsp ground cinnamon
 1 tsp ground nutmeg

Start by spraying a 9x13x2 baking pan with non stick spray. Break bread into bite size pieces into pan. Sprinkle raisins on top along with cinnamon and nutmeg. Cream the butter and sugar together. After creaming add eggs, blending well.

Heat milk and cream to approximately 110° to 120° and stir in the egg, butter, and sugar mixture. Pour mixture over the bread and cover with aluminum foil that has also been sprayed with non stick spray. Place in oven at 350° for 50 minutes, remove foil and bake for another 15 minutes. Remove from oven and let set. Serve with bourbon or rum sauce topping and enjoy.

Breakfast Casserole

Serves 10-12

8 eggs, beaten
 6 slices white bread, torn into pieces
 1 lb. sausage, cooked and crumbled
 ½ cup chopped bell pepper
 ½ cup chopped onion
 2 cups milk
 2 cups grated cheddar cheese
 1 tsp salt
 1 tsp black pepper
 1 tsp dry mustard

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl and pour into a greased 9x13-inch glass baking pan. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour or overnight if making up the night before.

Remove cover and bake for 35 minutes at 350°. Casserole is cooked through when it pulls away from sides of the pan.

MARCH 2011

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

OJJ Administrative Team

Mary L. Livers, Ph.D, MSW, *Deputy Secretary*
Dr. Girard J. Melancon, *Assistant Secretary*
Connie Percell, *Undersecretary*
Carolyn B. Lewis, *Dep. Asst. Secretary, Community Based Services*
Sean C. Hamilton, *Deputy Assistant Secretary, Facilities*
Ellyn Peterson, *Chief of Operations*
Karen Stubbs, JD, *Deputy Asst. Secretary, Intergovernmental Relations, Communications and Training*
Donna Bowie, *Family and Community Services*
Annette Arthur, LCSW, BACS, *Director of Treatment*
Jerel M. Giarrusso, APR, *Communications Director*
Gwendolyn Jones, *Human Resources Director*
Martha Morgan, JD, *General Counsel*
Kim B. Mims, *Director of Education*
Kelly D. Smith, MN, APRN, PHCNS-BS, *Health Services Adm.*
Vanessa Tom, *IT Director*

Contact

For more information contact Jerel.Giarrusso@la.gov
225.287.7898

Reporters

Alexandria: Sharon Graham
Baton Rouge: Michelle Thomas
Bridge City: Cassandra Washington & Charlene Gordon
Central Office: Katherine Abrams & Gwen Brinkley
Hammond: Courtney Pegues
Jetson: Daron Brown
Lafayette/Opelousas: Kevin Broussard
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Swanson: Kristi Walker
Tallulah: LaJuana Harrell
Thibodaux: Allison Lirette

Intergovernmental Relations, Communications and Training

Karen Stubbs, *Deputy Assistant Secretary*
Jerel Giarrusso, *Communications Director*
Fran Martin, *Director of Staff Development*